

2 ✓
Bow Hill
Deutzville
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-224

HABS
NJ
11-TRET
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey.

HABS
N.J.

11-TRET.

7-

Bow Hill
Deutzville
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: The Lalor Estate

Date of Erection: About 1790

Architect:

Builder: Barnt De Klyn

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Main unit two and one-half;
wing two stories

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Dutch oven on wing

Roof - gambrel with dormers
on main unit; pitch on wing

Historical Data:

Bow Hill, or as it was sometimes called "Beau Hill", was built shortly before 1790 by Barnt De Klyn. Barnt, the descendant of French Huguenot nobility, was born in Boston. He married Mary Van Zant of New York. During the Revolutionary War, he made a fortune as a merchant selling cloth for uniforms. During the 1780's

when there was a talk of making Trenton the capital of the United States, Barnt bought a large tract of land along the Delaware. He added to it from time to time and built one of the finest mansions in New Jersey on the property. However, in 1790 it was decided to build the capital along the Potomac. This was rather a severe blow to Barnt; however, he was by no means a poor man. He lived here in manorial style with his wife and one daughter Kitty.

About 1820 Barnt's friend, Joseph Bonaparte, persuaded him to rent Bow Hill. Here Bonaparte brought his protegee Annette Savage. Philadelphia society had refused to know Annette and Bonaparte thought that the provincial society of Trenton might be more friendly; however, Trenton was no different.

Annette Savage and her mother kept a glove shop in Philadelphia; the family were Quakers. The story according to Mills, is that Joseph Bonaparte fell in love with her as she sold him suspenders. However, Heston says that Annette was introduced to Bonaparte by his secretary and that Bonaparte proposed to the mother that he take her under his protection. She lived for a time with him in Philadelphia and then he rented Bow Hill. There were apparently two daughters by this affair - one died early, the other, Charlotte, was later presented to the French court by Napoleon III as his cousin after he had legalized the marriage between Annette Savage and Joseph.

In the spring of 1822, Bonaparte who owned considerable land in Jefferson County, New York, founded the town of Diana. He built a large mansion here where Annette reigned as mistress until 1830 when the Revolution called him back to France. After this Annette married Joseph de la Foille of a good French family living in Diana.

Bow Hill is in the possession of the Lalor family who are descendants of Barnt De Klyn. The house at present is occupied by a caretaker.

Bibliography:

Mills, W. J. Historic Houses of New Jersey
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1902

Hewitt, L. Historic Trenton Trenton,
The Smith Press, 1916

Walker, E. R. et als (joint authors)
A History of Trenton 1679-1929 2 Volumes
Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1929

Heston, A. M. South Jersey A History
1664-1924 4 Volumes New York, Lewis
Historical Publishing Company, 1924

Walter C. ...
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

W 8/28/37